को प्रोत्साहन देने हेतु कोई प्रस्ताव है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस दिशा में सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाए हैं; और

(ग) इस संबंध में सरकार की नीति का ब्यौरा क्या है?

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के.पी. सिंह देव): (क) से (ग) जी हां। यद्यपि मंत्रालय केवल महिलाओं के लिए कोई स्कीम विशेष नहीं चलाता, पर खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग स्थापित करने के लिए महिला उद्यमियों से प्राप्त होने वाले प्रस्तावों को प्राथमिकता दी जाती है। इसी तरह मंत्रालय द्वारा सहायता प्राप्त खाद्य प्रसंस्करण तथा प्रशिक्षण केन्द्रों में महिलाओं को प्रशिक्षण देने की प्राथमिकता दी जाती है ताकि उन्हें खाद्य प्रसंस्करण यूनिटें स्थापित करने के लिए प्रोत्साहन मिले। सरकार ने महिला उद्योग निधि भी स्थापित की है जिसके मार्फत महिला उद्यमियों को सहायता उपलब्ध कराई जाती है।

Performance of the Intelligence Agencies

647. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the experience gained, Government have, at any stage, considered the question of examining the role and performance of the intelligence agencies and their achievements and failures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to bring about structural and procedural reforms in the country's intelligence outfits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): (a) and (b) The performance of Intelligence Agencies has been constantly under review and their role and performance are considered at frequent intervals at the highest levels.

(c) Operational performance of the intelligence agencies is constantly reviewed and undated based on the experience gained.

Inter-Exchange Transfer of Telephone in Delhi

648. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephones transferred under OYT category of Nehru Place Exchange to any other exchange in Delhi pending for more than one year, alongwith the reasons for not affecting the change;

(b) whether it is a fact that the concerned authorities are not taking any action;

(c) whether telephone subscribers have any liability of paying rental or other charges for the period during which the telephones remains inoperative and not transferred as requested, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the MTNL to remove undue hardship to the subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, 11 cases are pending for more than one year for transfer of telephones under OYT category from Nahru Place exchange to other exchanges in Delhi due to subscriber's reasons.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Pro-rata refund of rental is allowed for the periods the telephone service remains suspended if the shifting is delayed beyond 15 days due to departmental reasons.

(d) Bulk of the shifting cases are cleared within the stipulated time-limit unless cases are delayed due to technical non-feasibility or subscriber's reasons. Constant monitoring is done until the cases become feasible and the subscribers are kept informed.

News Regarding Counterfeit Currency Racket

649. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a counterfeit currency racket unearthed in Raipur (Vide the Statesman, 12th February 1996);

(b) whethr the racket is connected with a Dubai based Smuggler known as "KD";

(c) the findings of the CBI in this regard; and

(d) the action, if any taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The case is at the initial stage of investigation. Involvement of the suspects is yet to be ascertained. Appropriate action will be taken by the investigating agency in due course.

Openness in Government Functioning

650. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government functioning is mostly shrouded in secrecy and confidentiality, and there is neither any transparency nor any openness of its functioning;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to let the people of the country who are sovereign and from whom the country derives all its powers, know what the Government is doing; and

(c) whether non-transparency of Government facilities corruption, waste, inefficiency and all kinds of mal-practices and mal-administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the need to inform the people about the activities of the Government has to be balanced against the need to protect some information, the disclosur of which would not be in national/administrative interest. Recognising the need for transparency in the functioning of the Government, a large number of steps have been taken, over the years, towards simplification of rules and procedures which also include streamlining of the existing procedures, demystification of rules, simplification of various forms prescribed for obtaining services from governmental agencies etc.

संसाधित खाद्य वस्तुओं के निर्यातकों को राहत पैकेज का प्रस्ताव

651. **श्री कनकसिंह मोहन सिंह मंगरोला:** क्या खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार संसाधित खाद्य वस्तुओं के निर्यातकों को कोई राहत पैकेज उपलब्ध कराने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका राज्य-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या इस संबंध में भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा जारी किए गए दिशा-निर्देशों का निर्यातकों द्वारा कड़ाई से पालन किया जाता है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और इन दिशा-निर्देशों का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए क्या उपाय किए गए हैं?

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री के.पी. सिंह देव): (क) और (ख) खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय का विचार प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य निर्यातकों को कोई राहत पैकेज प्रदान करने का नहीं है।

(ग) और (घ) विदेशी मुद्रा विनियमन अधिनियम, 1973 में निर्यात से हुई आय की वसूली के लिए निर्धारित अवधि और वस्तुओं के निर्यात मूल्य के भुगतान की प्रक्रिया से संबंधित विनियत दिए गए हैं। निर्यातकों को निर्धारित फार्मों में अपने द्वारा किए जाने वाले निर्यात की घोषणा करनी होती है। निर्यात वसूली के लिए अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई की व्यवस्था, स्थल पर निरीक्षण और विवरणियों द्वारा ऑफ-साइट निगरानी आदि के मार्फत भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक अपने मार्गनिर्देशों का अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करता है।

Oman-India Gas Pipeline

652. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI MAULNA OBAI-DULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposed Oman-India gas pipeline;

(b) its estimated cost likely to be apportioned between India and Oman;

(c) whether the Oman Oil Company has rules out the possibility of purchasing 1150 km. of pipeline from Indian manufacturers; and

(d) its ultimate impact on the financial cost of the project ?